

TO: Merced City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney

FROM: Council Member Anthony Martinez, District 1

DATE: August 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Discussion of a new Public Art Commission

The purpose of this memo is to inform members of city staff and Council of my intention to engage the Council in a discussion at the next Merced City Council meeting, on August 21st, over the creation of a new city-wide commission that would be charged with the task of promoting, reviewing, and advising to Council and staff public art projects that residents would like to see happen in the city of Merced.

Context

In the middle of June I met with a group of local residents that were involved with projects involving the youth of Merced and Merced Organizing Project (MOP). They informed me of a mural that was to be painted on the building of Sam's Café, located at 235 W. 12th street, in Merced (It has since been painted). We also spoke of various art projects that have happen in town, including recent work done in Bob Hart Square. As we spoke of the benefits of public art, we began pondering the possibility of a group of residents whose goal it would be to help beautify the city of Merced through public art.

Discussion

For this reason, I will be proposing that city staff and Council consider the possibility of creating a "Public Art Commission." The purpose of this commission would be to identify and evaluate public art projects that residents support and help bring them to fruition through promoting and advising to Council and staff projects that the city should undertake.

Benefits

The formation of this type of commission could bring immediate benefits to residents, including the following:

- Raises public morale and participation in local art.
- Builds the city's reputation as an art friendly town
- Creates a streamlined process for residents to undertake or contribute to public art projects.

Should you find this initial suggestion intriguing, I would ask that you lend to the discussion input or advice on establishing structure, acquiring funding, and further outlining goals and purposes. I will present my ideas of what I believe this commission should exhibit. However, I emphasize that my preliminary knowledge of this topic is not suitable enough to correctly design this commission without the expertise, experience, and acumen of my fellow colleagues. So, I ask those interested to be prepared to share your welcomed contributions.

In closing, I thank you in advance for hearing my thoughts on this issue and for your consideration of this proposal.